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May Be Moving Into Bay

Ferry Adrift in Potomac

From Staff and Wire Reports

SUNNYBANK — The ferry Accomac, aground in Chesapeake Bay for the past six weeks, was broken loose Wednesday, but her trip to a Potomac River scrap yard was interrupted again late in the day when high winds caused the tug towing her to cut the 12,000-ton vessel adrift.

Late Wednesday night the Coast Guard at Portsmouth said it had no report on where the ferry might be. When last seen she was drifting without lights toward Point Lookout on the Maryland side of the mouth of the Potomac.

Winds of more than 20 knots out of the southwest and the ebbing tide would likely push her out into Chesapeake Bay, however, and perhaps aground on the Eastern Shore side. Adrift without lights, she was described as a serious menace to navigation in the bay.

The rusty old ferry, which used to ply between Norfolk and Cape Charles on the Eastern Shoreb efore the days of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, first grounded Sept. 19 off Damerons Marsh in the bay.

A blow broke her loose two weeks later and she drifted north to another shoal between Fleeton Beach and the Wicomico Light.

Tuesday the tug Hemco, helped by an unusually high tide, managed to swing her stern around and work her off the shoal, and the trip to the scrapyard 80 miles up the Potomac started again.

But five miles along, the Hemco cut too close between the Smith Point Lighthouse and the point itself and the Accomac again grounded.

Wednesday's high tide, plus a southwesterly blow, kicked her free once more.

But the blow lost its beneficence when it developed into a 30-to 40-knot gale and tossed the ferry dangerously. At one time the winds and seas put the towed ferry within 18 inches of ramming the Hemco, so the crew cut her loose.

The Hemco's skipper, Capt. John S. Fiocca of Clinton, Md., said the seas were too rough even for the tug alone, and put in for the night in Little Wicomico River.

Bake Shop in City Is Robbed of $93

The Betty Lewis Bake Shop at 1818 Creighton Road was robbed of $93 early last night.

Margie Marie Sherman of 1206 N. 19th St. told police that she was on the telephone when a Negro man walked up to her and demanded all the money from the cash register. She said he held a black object under his T-shirt.

Earlier in the day, a vegetable vendor was robbed of $20 in the 300 block W. Clay St. Jacob H. King, 66, told police two Negro youths grabbed him and told him they would kill him if he reported the robbery.

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